Rehabilitation of Child Labour

3606. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a report entitled "Child Labour, Education and Rehabilitation" submitted by the centre of Concern for Child Labour as reported in the Hindustan Times on the 4th April, 2000;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that only 4 lakh children in hazardous employment are rehabilitated as against promise to rehabilitate two million children in 2000;

(c) whether as per Ministry of Labour record there were 44 million children workers in 1991, if so, what is the number thereof at present in the country; and

(d) what are Government's concrete plans for their rehabilitation during the year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Centre of Concern for Child Labour has submitted a report to the Government in April, 2000. The report *inter-alia,* contains details on definition of Child Labour, extent of child labour, types of child labour, Government of India's Policy towards child labour, rehabilitation of child labour through different models and challenges for future.

Authentic information on Child Labour is generated during the decennial Census. As per the 1991 census, the total number of working children in the country is 11.28 million.

Government of India has been implementing two schemes, for rehabilitation of Children withdrawn from work, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) and the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. 12 NCLPs are currently under implementation in 10 child labour endemic states for rehabilitation of 1.9 lakh children. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 20. 1. 99 approved the continuance of the scheme of NCLP for the duration of the Ninth Plan and expansion of number of projects to 100.

Under the Scheme of Grant-in-aid, funds are released to Voluntary Organisations, on the recommendation of the concerned State Government, for taking up action oriented projects for the benefit of working children. Over 70 projects are currently under implementation under the Scheme of grant-in-aid.

The above Schemes are continuing in the year 2000-2001 also.

Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem a gradual, progressive and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour.

Vacant posts of SC/ST categories in Ministry of Labour

3607. SHRI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of various posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lying vacant in his Ministry for the last five years and till date;

(b) the action being taken to fill them up; and

(c) the time by which the said posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

National Wage Policy for Bidi Labourers

3608. MISS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will make a National Policy for Bidi Labourers so that they may get equal wages all over the country;

(b) whether Government will take necessary steps to ensure that the Bidi magnates do not shift their Bidi manufacturing units to States having lower wages for Bidi making thereby rendering lakhs of bidi labourers without employment and on the verge of starvation in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) How much allocation was made available in 1999-2000 to construct residential accommodation for Bidi labourers in Mahdya Pradesh?